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### Religious Frenzy vs. Sexist Whimsy

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Recycling worker Rudy Altgelt of Bloomfield Hills stomps on plastic containers to make room for more at the Birmingham Recycling Center.

# WASTE NOT

*Recycling may be key to the future*

BY MIKE WILLIAMS  
Free Press Staff Writer

**N**ot so long ago, people who recycled trash that the rest of us were cheerfully throwing away were considered a bit peculiar.

There weren't many of them, and most seemed to be young or eccentric or both — the kind of people who wore "Save the Whales" buttons and were always circulating petitions to ban something. Their warnings about environmental calamity in the next century didn't win many converts among people who thought they had done their bit by putting aside a few bundles of newspapers for an annual school paper drive.

That was before hospital syringes started washing up on beaches, and ships loaded with incinerator ash became pariahs on the high seas; before toxic seepage from landfills that most people never thought about started fouling well

effort to cope with America's mounting garbage crisis.

You can witness that effort if you drop by any of the dozens of recycling centers that have sprung up in metro Detroit over the past year. You'll find people of all income, age, occupational and educational levels chucking plastic milk cartons, newspapers, non-deposit bottles, cans and batteries into bins.

Ask them why they're going to all that trouble and you'll get an earful.

"I'm tired of the Earth being fouled. Birds don't do it to their nests the way we're doing it to our own environment," says Kathy Golden, 52, a Royal Oak housewife and mother of three.

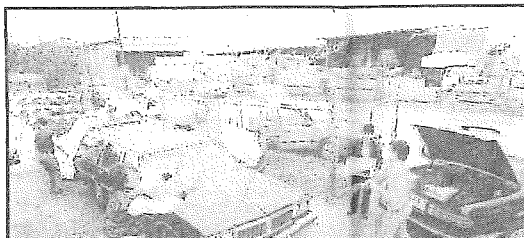
As she talks, Golden is emptying her car trunk of newspapers, plastic bottles and glass jars outside the public services building in Royal Oak. It's one of her weekly chores, she says. No big thing. But she's noticed that her recycling effort has begun to affect her shopping.

"It makes you start to think. I've switched away from a few brands because



Tygh Outland, an employee at the recycling center, unloads papers from truck. When cars are lined up, workers unload while drivers stay behind wheel.

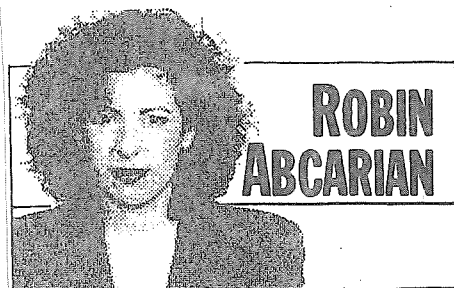
■ What can be recycled? How do you do it? Where do you take it? Page 4.



## INSIDE: FASHION

■ Jewelry has gone beyond glitter to become wearable art. Page 7.

Sunday, May 7, 1989



## Religious frenzy vs. sexist whimsy

Last month, a news item with a Tehran dateline announced that women in Iran might be punished with up to 74 lashes — and we're not talking Maybelline glue-ons — if they wear clothing that accentuates body curves or use lipstick or eye shadow in a provocative manner in public.

Last week, a news item with a Washington dateline announced that Ann B. Hopkins might have been punished by the accounting firm Price Waterhouse for not wearing clothes that accentuated her body curves and for not using lipstick or eye shadow in a provocative manner.

My, my, my. It's still so hard to please men.

Women in Iran, of course, are subject to the religious laws of the theocracy in which they live. Women at Price Waterhouse, it seems, might just be subject to the sexist whims of the company's male partners.

## Not much difference

Which is worse? Frankly, I don't see much difference, except that in Iran, at least you know what the rules are before you break them. In the American business world, the rules are unspoken and vague. Yet women who want to advance are automatically assumed to know them and act accordingly.

But what are we to make of a corporate culture that values aggressiveness and intelligence, then penalizes women who show those traits because they have failed to varnish their shells?

According to news accounts, Ann B. Hopkins had brought more clients to Price Waterhouse than any of the other 87 people who were candidates for partnership in the firm. This was not enough.

Supervisors suggested that she should go to "charm school" to walk, talk and dress "more femininely" and to wear makeup and jewelry. They said she was "macho" and "overcompensated for being a woman." So when 47 men were made partners, and Hopkins was not, she sued. The company has said that Hopkins was not promoted because she was abrasive, hard to work with and lacked sensitivity, tact and leadership.

I wish I had a mill for every successful man who fits that description.

## The burden shifts

The U.S. Supreme Court, which is composed of eight men and one woman who wear black, flowing robes, doesn't care what Hopkins looks like and suggested Monday that she may have been discriminated against illegally. Justices sent the case back to a lower court, so it's not over. The important victory here for women is that the burden is on Price Waterhouse to prove it did not discriminate, rather than on Hopkins to prove the firm did.

"An employer who objects to aggressiveness in women but whose positions require this trait places women in an intolerable and impermissible Catch-22: out of a job if they behave aggressively and out of a job if they don't," wrote Justice William Brennan Jr. This makes me want to kiss Justice Brennan and Joseph Heller, a ridiculously feminine reaction, as I am sure Isiah Thomas and Magic Johnson would attest.

Is there a woman alive in the working world who has not been caught in the bind of being expected to execute the ridiculous act of "thinking like a man" while "acting like a woman"?

Before I left graduate school, all fired up for the job hunt, my favorite professor sat me down for an inspirational chat and ended with this important advice: "Don't forget — it never hurts to gussy yourself up like a racehorse."

Yeah. Do that here and you get a job. Do that in Iran and you get whipped.

*Robin Abcarian appears Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.*